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**SAN DIEGO "ATTORNEY OF THE YEAR" AWARD**  
**MARY JO LANZAFAME**  
***CITY OF SAN DIEGO HONORS DEPUTY CITY ATTORNEY***

**San Diego, Ca--**San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn announced that Deputy City Attorney Mary Jo Lanzafame is the "2002 Attorney of the Year" in the Office of the City Attorney. Each year, the City Attorney seeks input from community groups, business leaders and city staff in selecting the Attorney of the Year. The award acknowledges and rewards the Civil Division Deputy City Attorney whose professional accomplishments and abilities and contributions to the community best demonstrate and fulfill the goals of the San Diego City Attorney's Office. "Mary Jo is a shining example of the most dedicated public servants who practice law ethically, effectively, and with the utmost professionalism and excellence," said City Attorney Gwinn.

Lanzafame is one of the Legal Advisors to the City's Planning Commission, Planning Department, Development Services Department, and the City Council on land use projects. She handles and has handled high-profile controversial planning and development projects such as the SeaWorld Master Plan, Carroll Canyon Business Park, Strategic Framework Plan/City of Villages, and La Jolla Community Plan. She also advises the Planning Department regarding the City's forty-one community plans. On all of these projects Lanzafame has worked with elected officials, members of the public, City staff, and other attorneys within the office to provide sound and timely legal advice and review.

Co-workers of Lanzafame say that her talents are not limited to her outstanding legal skills and client dedication. She is also a valuable colleague who is always willing to mentor and lend a helping hand to other attorneys in the Real Property Unit and elsewhere in the Office. Lanzafame co-chairs the City Attorney's Land Use Practice Group, leading substantive discussions on land use and real property issues.

(more)

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The native Californian joined the San Diego City Attorney's Office in 1987. She distinguished herself as a Criminal Division Deputy serving ten years in the Code Enforcement Unit, handling complex criminal and civil matters. In 1997, she transferred to the Civil Division. Lanza fame received her J.D. Degree from California Western School of Law.

The Mayor and the San Diego City Council also commended Mary Jo Lanza fame and presented her with a proclamation, declaring the day in her honor. Family and colleagues of Lanza fame also attended this morning's council meeting where she was recognized.

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